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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0317  
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INFO RUEHJS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5486  
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 1364  
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 1337  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 3152  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 5004  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 2321  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2598  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 3160  
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 3019  
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 1192  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 JAKARTA 001906

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/MTS, EAP/MLS, EAP/RSP, DRL, DRL/IL  
(MMITTELHAUSER)  
NSC FOR EPHU  
DEPT OF LABOR FOR ILAB/OCFT EMUIRRAGUI, ILAB BSASSER

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ELAB](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: INDONESIA -- NOMINATION FOR DOL AWARD FOR ELIMINATION OF  
CHILD LABOR

REF: A. STATE 99123

[1](#)B. 07 JAKARTA 3359

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[1](#)1. (U) SUMMARY: Mission Jakarta nominates Seto Mulyadi, a  
campaigner for child protection, for the USDOL Iqbal Masih Award for  
Elimination of Child Labor. Details of his leadership in the area  
of child protection follow. END SUMMARY.

THE NOMINEE

[1](#)2. (U) Nominee:

- a. Name: Mr. Seto Mulyadi
- b. Title: Chair
- c. Organization: National Commission for Child Protection
- d. Address: Jl. TB Simatupang No. 33, Pasar Rebo, Jakarta Timur,  
13760, Indonesia
- e. Telephone/fax/e-mail: tel: (62-21) 840-0573; fax: 841-6158;  
e-mail: komnasp@rad.net.id

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

[1](#)3. (U) Background: Child psychologist, former children's talk show  
host, and founder of an elementary school for home schooled  
children, Seto Mulyadi has chaired the National Commission for Child  
Protection (Child Commission or Komnas Anak) since 1998. Because of  
his intrepid work to rescue children from the worst forms of child  
labor, he has been barraged with life threatening phone calls and  
his office was destroyed by arson in early 1998. The fire destroyed  
thousands of records, computers and furniture, forcing the Child  
Commission to start from scratch. Due to his efforts, Seto Mulyadi  
is a worthy recipient of the Iqbal Masih Award.

RESCUING CHILDREN FROM SLAVERY

[1](#)4. (U) Over the past 10 years, Mulyadi and a small staff have  
uncovered cases of the worst forms of child labor involving tens of  
thousands of children, rescuing many of them. Mulyadi's Child  
Commission also operates a child protection hotline, and carries out  
campaigns to protect children from abuse, smoking, pornography, etc.  
In the past year alone, Mulyadi personally:

-- Undertook dangerous trips in early 2008 to the jungles of the Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) region in order to document children enslaved in illegal logging camps. His findings were nationally publicized. He continues to fight for action to rescue these children.

-- Led a fact-finding team in August 2008 to plantations in Malaysian Borneo (Sabah) in order to uncover the situation of tens of thousands of children allegedly trapped in bonded labor on plantations. The investigation received widespread national and regional publicity. The Malaysian Embassy in Jakarta announced in September 2008 that it was jointly investigating the situation with the Indonesian Consulate in Sabah, in response to Child Commission findings.

-- Penetrated hidden factories in Jakarta where kidnapped children worked round the clock behind locked gates processing birds' nests to export for birds nest soup (Ref B). Mulyadi persisted despite police unwillingness to cooperate, finally convincing authorities to raid one factory, rescuing a dozen young children and arresting the traffickers. The Child Commission team continues to investigate other hidden factories which exploit child labor, working to gather enough evidence to convince authorities to act.

15. (U) In previous years, Mulyadi led efforts to document and rescue children trapped in sex slavery throughout Indonesia. Following the December 2004 tsunami in Aceh, he led efforts to prevent orphaned children from being trafficked and set up a children's trauma center.

#### A LEADER'S WIDE IMPACT

16. (U) Dozens of NGOs and individuals in Indonesia are carrying out

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local efforts to rescue children from the worst forms of child labor but the Child Commission Anak leads in the scope and impact of its efforts. It systematically investigates some of the worst cases and through cooperation with authorities and publicity the Child Commission has succeeded in bringing terrible conditions to light and rescuing children. This is largely thanks to the leadership of Seto Mulyadi. For his efforts and to support his work in the future, Mission strongly nominates him for this prestigious award.

17. (U) Mulyadi is aware of this nomination and approves it.  
HEFFERN